

- 2 -

4. (Amended) Mud suction unit according to claim 3, characterized therein that the connections are diametrically opposed.  
~~connection is diametrically opposite the connection.~~
5. (Amended) Mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the suction element has a grip area at which a remote control is located for switching the motor on or off.
6. (Amended) Mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that a suction tube is formed at one free end of the suction element on which a suction nozzle can be placed, the suction nozzle being provided with a claw-type lower part which has a number of webs.
7. (Amended) Mud suction unit according to claim 6, characterized therein that the suction nozzle has a suction slit, the width of whose opening being adjustable.

## REMARKS

Claims 3, 5 and 6 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and all the claims have been amended to delete reference numerals.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made".

**Applicant looks forward to early and favourable consideration of this application.**

Respectfully submitted,

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PCT/DE00/02921VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) Mud suction unit having a receiving container [(1.6)], to which a suction element [93] is attached for drawing in a muddy fluid and a discharging element [(5)] for setting the muddy fluid that has been drawn in into motion, and a motor [(1.7)] for generating a suction flow, the motor [(1.7)] being shut off when a filling limit of the muddy fluid is reached, characterized therein that the discharging element [(5)] comprises a vacuum valve [(5.2)] which is closed during a suction process due to the negative pressure present in the receiving container [(1.6)] and opened when the motor [(1.7)] is switched off due to the internal pressure present in the receiving container [(1.6)].
2. Mud suction unit according to claim 1, characterized therein that the motor [(1.7)] is connected with a ball valve [(1.9)] which is situated in the area of a filling limit in the receiving container [(1.6)] and which closes when the filling limit is reached.
3. Mud suction unit according to claim 1[or 2], characterized therein that the receiving container [(1.6)] has a connection [(1.2)] for the suction element [(3)] in an upper part of the receiving container [(1.6)] at the cover end and a connection [(1.3)] for the discharging element [(5)] in a lower part of the receiving container [(1.6)] at the bottom end.
4. Mud suction unit according to claim 3, characterized therein that the connection [(1.3)] is diametrically opposite the connection [(1.2)].
5. Mud suction unit according to [one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, characterized therein that the suction element has a grip area [(3.1)] at which a remote control [(3.2)] is located for switching the motor [(1.7)] on or off.

- 2 -

6. Mud suction unit according to [one of the preceding] claim[s] 1, characterized therein that a suction tube [(3.3)] is formed at one free end of the suction element [(3)] on which a suction nozzle [(7)] can be placed, the suction nozzle [(7)] being provided with a claw-type lower part [(7.1)] which has a number of webs [(7.2)].
7. Mud suction unit according to claim 6, characterized therein that the suction nozzle [(7)] has a suction slit [(7.5)], the width of whose opening being adjustable.

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